Synopsis

The Beleaguered Mark

Purpose of the Exhibit

To chronicle the attempts at postal order during the economic chaos which devastated Germany following World War I.

Presentation

Selected examples of German commercial and personal mail cancelled on the first and last day of each of the 23 rate periods from October 1919 through November 1923 and the first day of currency reform, December 1, 1923.

Coverage

Every attempt has been made to select the best examples of postal history for each of the era's rate periods. At a minimum, each period shows difficult to find first and last day usage of basic local, national or international surface rates. Whenever possible, more complex rates and/or "exotic" usages are shown, including special "treaty" rates, air and special delivery, cross border rates, remailed material, COD delivery and service of legal documents. There are also examples of re-used "adversity" covers, stampless "postpaid" markings, massive frankings, unusual destinations, the usages of provincial overprints, and roulette perforations. First day commercial usages of stamps (per Michel) are also included. However, no attempt is made to show every tariff nor the study of the 250+ stamps which were used between October 1919 and November 1923.

Condition

The material in this exhibit is in the best condition I have found to date. Be reminded that material used during this period was of poor quality and few of these items (especially before August, 1923) would have been saved as collector's items.

Bibliography

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